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*Inspection of vessels at Yokohama.*

YOKOHAMA, March 15, 1896.

SIR: I have the honor to report that, since January 25, the date of my last return, I have inspected vessels as follows, all being free from any suspicion of infectious disease, viz:

February 3, bark *Behring*, bound for San Francisco; February 4, steamship *City of Peking*, bound for San Francisco; steamship *Tacoma*, bound for Tacoma, and steamship *Dunferline*, bound for Port Townsend; February 7, steamship *Asloun*, bound for Portland, Oreg.; February 10, ship *W. H. Macy*, bound for New York; February 11, steamship *Belgie*, bound for San Francisco; February 18, steamship *China*, bound for San Francisco; February 19, steamship *Glenartney*, bound for New York; February 21, steamship *Victoria*, bound for Tacoma; February 28, ship *St. Paul*, bound for New York; March 2, steamship *Mount Lebanon*, bound for Portland, Oreg.; March 3, steamship *Peru*, bound for San Francisco; March 14, ship *Lucille* and steamship *Radnorshire*, bound for New York; March 15, steamship *Coptic*, bound for San Francisco.

I am, sir, very respectfully,

STUART ELDRIDGE, M. D.,  
Sanitary Inspector, U. S. M. H. S.

*Report on infectious diseases in Japan during 1895.*

YOKOHAMA, March 15, 1896.

SIR: I have the honor to forward the following abstract of the preliminary report of the home department upon infectious disease in Japan during 1895:

Cholera, cases, 53,999; deaths, 38,500; per cent of mortality, 71.27. Dysentery, cases, 50,977; deaths, 12,218; per cent of mortality, 23.94. Variola, cases, 1,278; deaths, 268; per cent of mortality, 20.18. Typhoid, cases, 36,678; deaths, 8,331; per cent of mortality, 22.71. Typhus, cases, 184; deaths, 49; per cent of mortality, 26.63. Diphtheria, cases, 6,100; deaths, 3,036; per cent of mortality, 49.777.

In regard to the foregoing, I beg to remark, that the epidemic of cholera during last year was distinguished by a death rate much higher than is usual from this disease in Japan. A mortality of 71 per cent has, I think, been but rarely met with in temperate climates, save in special conditions and within a limited territory, heretofore.

The epidemic dysentery of Japan, which first became noticeable some six or seven years ago, and has steadily progressed, has now become of grave importance. The mortality of the disease is, as you will notice, about that of tropical dysentery, with which, however, at least as regards the amoebic form of the latter, it does not seem to be identical. So far, dysentery prevails chiefly in the southern half of the Empire, although it is steadily, if slowly, advancing to the northward.

That in a country which, only twenty-five years ago, was annually scourged by smallpox (it is difficult to find a Japanese of forty or more years who has not suffered from variola in his youth), possessing so large a population, whose habits are most favorable for the transmission of this disease, so few cases of it should occur, affords new evidence of the value of vaccination, were such needed. Not only primary vaccination but re-vaccination is now almost universal in Japan, the people themselves having the utmost confidence in it; except in emergencies, only bovine virus being employed, which is supplied at a nominal cost by establishments under strict official supervision.

The prevalence of typhoid fever is, as elsewhere, chiefly in the towns and ascribable to impure water, a cause now rapidly in process of elimination by the construction of waterworks, at least in the larger cities.

Typhus fever is, at all times, a rare malady in Japan, and even the favorable conditions existing during and immediately after the recent war have had little effect in developing it.

Diphtheria, although it may have before existed in Japan, was first distinctly recognized about 1875, since which time it appears to have gradually, though slowly, increased in frequency. However, this disease in Japan can not, even now, be considered as of so malignant a character as when occurring in Europe and America. The reported proportion of deaths is large, but it must be remembered that, as a rule, only the severer cases are recognized and that, perhaps in the majority of instances, treatment is by no means of the best, or thoroughly applied. The comparative mildness of the type of the disease is, I think, shown by the facts, among others, that general septic infection is infrequent, post-diphtheritic paralysis almost unknown, and that epidemic tendency, even to the extent of the attack of more than one member of the same household, is rarely met with.

It will be noticed that scarlet fever does not appear in the list of infectious diseases reported upon. This is due to the excessive rarity of the malady in the island empire, where, though it is not absolutely unknown, a lifetime may be spent in the practice of medicine without encountering a single case, and where, even when it occurs, the type is almost invariably of the mildest and the appearance of the disease in epidemic form unheard of.

I am, sir, very respectfully,

STUART ELDRIDGE, M. D.,  
*Sanitary Inspector, U. S. M. H. S.*

MEXICO.

*Denial of report of existence of yellow fever in Vera Cruz.*

VERA CRUZ, MEXICO, *March 27, 1896.*

SIR: There were rumors this morning that yellow fever had appeared in this city, but I am glad to say that such is not the truth. I have visited the hospitals and inquired of the leading physicians, and am assured that there is not a case. \* \* \*

Last year the papers were full of reports about this disease, when the fact was that there was less of it than for several years previous. I have facilities for knowing, and report to you weekly the condition of this port, and am sure these reports are reliable. \* \* \*

Very respectfully,

CHARLES SCHAEFER,  
*United States Consul.*

TURKEY.

*Sanitary report.*

(Report No. 148.)

CONSTANTINOPLE, *March 11, 1896.*

The epidemic of influenza still prevails in Constantinople. Many cases of diphtheria do exist, also, and I have seen a few cases of whooping cough. One or two deaths from smallpox occur every week. There have been also some deaths from puerperal fever.